disinvestment of non-strategic Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) through reduction of Government shareholding to 26% or lower, on a case by case basis, irrespective of whether the PSU is profit-making or loss-making.

Assistance for preservation of heritage structures in Iraq

464. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government assisted Afghanistan in the field of preservation of heritage structures and museums;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to provide similar assistance to Iraq as well; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Government of India, as part of its assistance to the Government of Afghanistan has identified several areas of bilateral cooperation, including in the field of preservation of heritage structures and museums.

(b) There is no proposal for preservation of heritage structures and museums in Iraq at present.

(c) Does not arise.

Stand of International Community on Indo-Pak Ties

465. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the stand taken by the International Community on the recent efforts made by both India and Pakistan to create better relations between the two;

(b) whether Government are satisfied by the stand taken by the international community especially the Western Countries on matters to resolve Indo-Pak relations; and

(c) if so, to what extent keeping in mind the statement made by

Prime Minister on his visit to UK in October, 2002 that Western Countries were maintaining double standards on terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) There has been widespread international support to Prime Minster initiative of April 18, extending once again the hand of friendship to Pakistan, and the step-by-step process of normalisation of diplomatic and other links.

(b) and (c) Under the Simla agreement and as reiterated in the Lahore declaration, both India and Pakistan are committed to addressing all bilateral issues through peaceful bilateral dialogue. There is no scope for third party mediation.

However, there is scope for international cooperation as part of the global effort against international terrorism. Most countries have stated clearly that terrorism anywhere is unacceptable, cannot be justified on any grounds and must be eradicated, wherever it exists.

Pakistan, however, has attempted to use the limited and reluctant cooperation it has provided to the global effort to continue to maintain its option, capability and infrastructure to use terrorism as an instrument of State policy selectively. This aspect is not being addressed in the global effort against international terrorism and unless addressed would only serve to render it ineffective.

Five point agenda for peace initiatives between India and Pakistan

466. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a five point agenda as the basis of the new round of peace initiatives between India and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) India desires the establishment of a relationship of peace, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan. Prime Minister had, on April 18, 2003, once again